

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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March 18, 2014

Ferry County Board of County Commissioners 290 E Tessie Ave Republic, WA 99166

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to RCW 79A.15.110, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is providing information to Ferry County regarding our application for grant funding through the state's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The proposed land acquisition encompasses three parcels totaling 114.83 acres located adjacent to the Kettle River and Kroupa Road (see attached map). Parcel numbers are 24004110004, 24015220004, and 24016140001.

The Kettle River is an important trout fishery and is very popular with float tubers, kayakers, and other recreationists. However, because most of the river between Midway and Curlew is in private ownership, there is limited public access, especially by boat. We will establish access for small boats which will allow for more diversified recreational opportunities on the river. The promotion of outdoor recreational pursuits helps sustain economic benefits in this rural area of the state. The properties also provide important habitat for a variety of rare riparian and stream dependent species such as Columbia spotted frog, redband trout, and breeding bald eagles.

The WWRP program is administered by the state's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCW 79A.15.110 provides that Ferry County may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the RCO (PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917) identifying its position with regard to the proposed grant (RCO project No. 14-1100). The RCO will make any letter received available to the Governor and Legislature when the WWRP project list is submitted for funding.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this proposal with each of you, but would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions that you might have or discuss the specifics of a fee-title acquisition versus a conservation easement. If you would like more information regarding this grant request, please call me at 509-892-7852 (office) or 509-385-6441 (cell).

Sincerely

Steve Pozzanghera, Regional Director WDFW's Eastern Region (Region 1)

Attachments

Cc:

Lisa Coffman, WDFW, Real Estate Service Sarah Thirtyacre, RCO, Grant Manager

